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FBI-Files

Ortiz, Cabello, Ramirez

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

006940

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (64-42454)

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (105-3993) (C)

SUBJECT: ANTULIO RAMIREZ ORTIZ
IS - CUBA
OO: MIAMI

DATE: 3/24/76

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Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above concerning the captioned subject. Extra copies of the LHM are enclosed for dissemination to other files at the Bureau concerning RAMIREZ. Copies of LHM enclosed for Dallas, Newark, New York, and San Juan.

In interview with RAMIREZ, he advised that he recalled two other Puerto Ricans in Cuba who allegedly had received some special training in Cuba in the subject of kidnapping. They are LUIS RUIZ COLON, who, RAMIREZ stated, escaped from the U.S. Army while in Viet Nam in about 1959, and then fled to Cuba. His parents both then arrived in Cuba from Puerto Rico to be with him. The other is LUIS FRESE, also alleged to be a fugitive from Puerto Rico.

RAMIREZ emphasized that this information is based upon rumor only, that he has no idea what the so-

- 5 - Bureau (Encs. 8) (RM)
 (2 - 64-42454)
 (1 - 164-761) (FRESE)
 (1 - 42-155160) (COLON)
 (1 - 105-80787) (CUBAN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.)
1 - Dallas (164-70) (Encs. 1) (Info.) (RM)
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1 - New York (105-39129) (Enc. 1) (Info.) (RM)
3 - San Juan (Encs. 3) (RM)
 (1 - 42-593) (COLON)
 (1 - 76-523) (FRESE)
 (1 - (CUBAN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.))
3 - Miami
 (1 - 105-3993) (RAMIREZ)
 (1 - 105-1998) (CUBAN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.)
 (1 - 164-208) (FRESE)

VJW/pwm
(14)

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17 MAR 31 1976

MM 105-3993

called training in kidnapping consisted of and has no idea whatsoever that these two individuals are returning to the U.S., however, he also stated that in his opinion, both these men would cooperate with the U.S. authorities should they be returned to the U.S.

This opinion, regarding their willingness to cooperate with the U.S. authorities, is based strictly on his own sad and allegedly unhappy experience as a hijacker in Cuba. RAMIREZ alleges that he was not well treated in Cuba after arriving in Cuba as a hijacker.

It is also pointed out that RAMIREZ volunteered this information prior to receiving the 20 year sentence from Judge MEHRTENS at Miami. RAMIREZ did quite a bit of publicizing about how good it is to be here in the U.S. again and how terrible things are in Cuba. He might have volunteered the information about FRESE and COLON to establish a favorable relationship with the FBI.

Miami file 164-208 describes a LUIS ANTONIO FRESE as a white male, born 9/16/29 at San Juan Puerto Rico, who was confined on 5/20/67 after conviction for violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 2312. He was serving his sentence at a Federal Correctional Institute (FCI), Seagoville, Texas when he escaped 3/25/69. He is the subject of Bufile 164-761, captioned "LUIS ANTONIO FRESE; HIJACKING OF DELTA AIRLINES FLIGHT 821, DALLAS TO SAN DIEGO, 3/15/69, CRIME ABOARD AIRCRAFT - PIRACY, KIDNAPPING; ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONER (OO: DALLAS)"; Dallas file 164-70, Miami file 65-3035.

LUIS ENRIQUE RUIZ COLON is the subject of Bureau file 42-155160 and San Juan file 42-593. He is described as the only son of Puerto Rican parents, born 12/31/39 at Utuado, Puerto Rico, not known to be associated with the independence movement. He volunteered to be inducted into the U.S. Army in 1960 and was inducted in August of 1960. He deserted while in training in South Carolina. He later travelled to Cuba and his mother and father sold their properties to travel to Cuba to be with him. They were known to be residing in Havana, Cuba as of May, 1962. (Above re COLON from

MM 105-3993

San Juan (65-434) letter to the Bureau (65-68517), page 9, dated 4/16/64, captioned "UNSUB; aka MACIAS; ESP - CUBA." This letter set out the identity of subjects of security interest to the San Juan Office, in the past, in trying to identify unknown subjects MACIAS and BLANCO. U

Miami file 42-9241 refers to COLON but has been destroyed. U

The LUIS RUIZ COLON and LUIS FRESE referred to by ANTULIO RAMIREZ are very probably identical with LUIS ANTONIO FRESE and LUIS ENRIQUE RUIZ COLON referred to above. U

ANTULIO RAMIREZ had no indication that either FRESE or COLON are going to return to the U.S. (or Puerto Rico) but did state that the policy of the Government of Cuba toward U.S. citizen hijackers held in Cuba, was, as of November of 1975, to allow them to return to the U.S. U

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 105-3993

Miami, Florida

March 24, 1976

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RE: ANTULIO RAMIREZ ORTIZ
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Information concerning the captioned individual, hereafter referred to as RAMIREZ, was previously submitted in a report, captioned "ANTULIO RAMIREZ ORTIZ, also known as - FUGITIVE, INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA, INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN AIRCRAFT - KIDNAPPING; CRIME ON THE HIGH SEAS - ASSAULT", at Miami, dated December 4, 1975. U

On March 4, 1976, RAMIREZ was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison by U.S. District Court Judge WILLIAM MEHRTENS. U

RAMIREZ was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico on November 20, 1926, and served in the Korean War. He hijacked a National Airlines airplane on a Miami - Key West flight, May 1, 1961, the first airplane hijacking in the U.S. U

In an article he wrote for the Spanish language magazine, "Replica", published in Miami, RAMIREZ states that he was interviewed at length by Cuban G-2 (Intelligence) Agents on his arrival in Havana, after hijacking the airplane. He had numerous odd jobs in Havana, until he visited the Swiss Embassy in Havana, Cuba during the October crisis in 1962, when he decided that he should side with the U.S. in case of a confrontation between the U.S. and Russia. The G-2 photographed everybody that visited the Swiss Embassy, he said, and was later arrested on a charge of espionage, in Santiago, Cuba, on September 26, 1963. Thirty-six days later, he was freed, temporarily and re-arrested May 24, 1965, after having visited the Swiss Embassy several times. RAMIREZ was then sentenced to a term of three years in Principe Prison, where there were over 11,000 prisoners. U

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Exempt from GDS, Category 3
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DATE 3/8/78 J8/mly

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RE: ANTULIO RAMIREZ ORTIZ

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Eight months later, RAMIREZ was transferred to La Cabana. Later on, he was transferred to a farm in Guira de Melena. While at La Cabana, he stated, between 1965 and 1968, over 100 people were shot, usually at 9:00 PM each day. U

On August 22, 1972, he tried to escape from Cuba via a raft, but was found at sea by a crew aboard the fishing boat "Los Facos", taken back to Cuba and sent back to jail for another three years. U

On August 22, 1975, after serving his sentence, he was set free, taken to the Hotel Nueva Isla where dozens of plane hijackers who wanted to leave Cuba were housed. He was put on board a plane on November 11, 1975 bound for Jamaica, and given \$150 for some clothing. The policy then, he said, was to let the hijackers leave Cuba. U

While free on bond, prior to sentencing, in Miami, RAMIREZ worked at Murray's Restaurant, Coral Gables, Florida. His wife, ALTAGRACIA, resides at 11415 Venice Boulevard, Apartment 6, Los Angeles, California, 90066. U

On January 3, 1976, RAMIREZ advised a Special Agent of the FBI that he was always regarded with suspicion in Cuba since his arrival there. He was always suspected of being a Criminal Intelligence Agency or FBI "plant" (who would eventually begin furnishing information to the U.S.) Therefore, he had no opportunity to learn about Cuban Intelligence matters. C

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